

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1385

To provide for disclosure of fire safety standards and measures with respect to campus buildings, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 9, 2003

Mr. CORZINE (for himself and Mr. LAUTENBERG) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To provide for disclosure of fire safety standards and measures with respect to campus buildings, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Campus Fire Safety
5 Right-to-Know Act of 2003”.

6 **SEC. 2. DISCLOSURE OF FIRE SAFETY OF CAMPUS BUILD-**
7 **INGS.**

8 Section 485 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
9 U.S.C. 1092) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

2 (A) in subparagraph (N), by striking
3 “and” after the semicolon;

4 (B) in subparagraph (O), by striking the
5 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

6 (C) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(P) the fire safety report prepared by the in-
8 stitution pursuant to subsection (h).”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(h) DISCLOSURE OF FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS AND
11 MEASURES.—

12 “(1) ANNUAL FIRE SAFETY REPORTS RE-
13 QUIRED.—Each eligible institution participating in
14 any program under this title shall, beginning in aca-
15 demic year 2004–2005, and each year thereafter,
16 prepare, publish, and distribute, through appropriate
17 publications (including the Internet) or mailings, to
18 all current students and employees, and to any ap-
19 plicant for enrollment or employment upon request,
20 an annual fire safety report containing not less than
21 the following information with respect to the campus
22 fire safety practices and standards of that institu-
23 tion:

24 “(A) A statement that identifies each stu-
25 dent housing facility of the institution, and

1 whether or not that facility is equipped with a
2 fire sprinkler system or another fire safety sys-
3 tem, or both.

4 “(B) Statistics concerning the occurrence
5 on campus, during the 2 preceding academic
6 years for which data are available, of fires and
7 false fire alarms in student housing facilities.

8 “(C) For each such occurrence described
9 in subparagraph (B), a statement of the human
10 injuries or deaths and the structural damage
11 caused by the occurrence.

12 “(D) Information regarding fire alarms,
13 smoke alarms, the presence of adequate fire es-
14 cape planning or protocols (as defined in local
15 fire codes), rules on portable electrical appli-
16 ances, smoking and open flames (such as can-
17 dles), regular mandatory supervised fire drills,
18 and planned and future improvement in fire
19 safety.

20 “(E) Information about fire safety edu-
21 cation and training provided to students, fac-
22 ulty, and staff, including the percentage of stu-
23 dents, faculty, and staff who have participated
24 in such education and training.

“(F) Information concerning fire safety at student fraternities and sororities that are recognized by the institution, including—

“(i) information reported to the institution under paragraph (4); and

“(ii) a statement concerning whether and how the institution works with recognized student fraternities and sororities to make building and property owned or controlled by such fraternities or sororities more fire safe.

“(2) CURRENT INFORMATION TO CAMPUS COMMUNITY.—Each institution participating in any program under this title shall make, keep, and maintain a log, written in a form that can be easily understood, recording all fires reported to local fire departments, including the nature, date, time, and general location of each fire and all false fire alarms. All entries that are required pursuant to this paragraph shall, except where disclosure of such information is prohibited by law, be open to public inspection, and each such institution shall make periodic reports to the campus community on such fires and false fire alarms in a manner that will aid the prevention of similar occurrences.

1 “(3) REPORTS TO SECRETARY.—On an annual
2 basis, each institution participating in any program
3 under this title shall submit to the Secretary a copy
4 of the statistics required to be made available under
5 paragraph (1)(B). The Secretary shall—

6 “(A) review such statistics;

7 “(B) make copies of the statistics sub-
8 mitted to the Secretary available to the public;
9 and

10 “(C) in coordination with nationally recog-
11 nized fire organizations and representatives of
12 institutions of higher education, identify exem-
13 plary fire safety policies, procedures, and prac-
14 tices and disseminate information concerning
15 those policies, procedures, and practices that
16 have proven effective in the reduction of cam-
17 pus fires.

18 “(4) FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES.—Each
19 institution participating in any program under this
20 title shall request each fraternity and sorority that
21 is recognized by the institution to collect and report
22 to the institution the information described in sub-
23 paragraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (1), as ap-
24 plied to the fraternity or sorority, for each building

1 and property owned or controlled by the fraternity
2 or sorority, respectively.

3 “(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
4 this subsection shall be construed to authorize the
5 Secretary to require particular policies, procedures,
6 or practices by institutions of higher education with
7 respect to fire safety.

8 “(6) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the
9 term ‘campus’ has the meaning given the term in
10 subsection (f)(6).”.

11 **SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS BY SECRETARY OF EDU-**
12 **CATION.**

13 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment
14 of this Act, the Secretary of Education (in this section
15 referred to as the “Secretary”) shall prepare and submit
16 to Congress a report containing—

17 (1) an analysis of the current status of fire
18 safety systems in college and university facilities, in-
19 cluding sprinkler systems;

20 (2) an analysis of the appropriate fire safety
21 standards to apply to these facilities, which the Sec-
22 retary shall prepare after consultation with such fire
23 safety experts, representatives of institutions of
24 higher education, and other Federal agencies as the

1 Secretary, in the Secretary's discretion, considers
2 appropriate;

3 (3) an estimate of the cost of bringing all non-
4 conforming dormitories and other campus buildings
5 up to current new building codes; and

6 (4) recommendations from the Secretary con-
7 cerning the best means of meeting fire safety stand-
8 ards in all college facilities, including recommenda-
9 tions for methods to fund such cost.

○